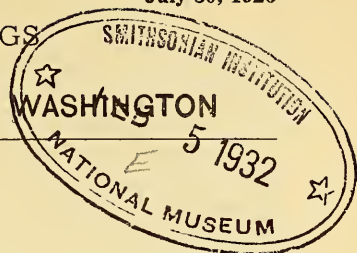


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF  
PEROGNATHUS FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA WITH  
A SHORT DISCUSSION OF THE TAXONOMIC PO-  
SITION OF OTHER PENINSULAR MEMBERS OF  
THIS GENUS.

BY LAURENCE M. HUEY.

In diagnosing a collection of mammals recently obtained for the San Diego Society of Natural History at San Felipe, Lower California, Mexico, the writer was confronted with the task of identifying specimens of four groups in the genus *Perognathus*, which were all trapped on common ground in the immediate vicinity of the beach line. Three of the forms are assignable to the *bombycinus*, *baileyi* and *penicillatus* groups, and the fourth, with which the present paper deals, seems most nearly related to *Perognathus arenarius*, described by Merriam in 1894 from the south central part of Lower California. Subsequent writers<sup>1</sup> have designated *P. arenarius* Merriam as a subspecies in the *penicillatus* group, naming it *Perognathus penicillatus arenarius*. In view of the fact that in my collecting at San Felipe six examples referable to *Perognathus penicillatus angustirostris* were captured in the same place as the *arenarius* specimens, and since it is well known that two races of the same species can not occupy the same ground, it seems to me that *P. arenarius* can not be given subspecific standing under *penicillatus*. I therefore propose for the San Felipe specimens the name:

***Perognathus arenarius albescens*, subsp. nov.**

LIGHT-COLORED POCKET MOUSE.

*Type*.—From San Felipe, Lower California, Mexico; No. 5103, Collec-

<sup>1</sup>Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., publ. 79, zool. ser., vol. 3, p. 221. June, 1903.

Osgood, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 20, p. 20. Feb. 23, 1907.

Townsend, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 31, p. 121. June 14, 1912.

Nelson and Goldman, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 36, p. 159. May 1, 1923.

tion of the San Diego Society of Natural History; adult ♂; collected by Laurence M. Huey, March 23, 1926.

*Characters.*—Pelage semi-silky, of extremely light color; from between the eyes and from the level of the back of the ears to the base of the tail uniform smoke gray (Ridgway's Color Standards and Color Nomenclature 1912), blending along the sides to the white underparts; some specimens in the series have a definite, brighter colored buff line separating the entire darker upperparts from the white underparts; tail scaly, bi-colored, with dark dorsal stripe, and slight terminal brush of longer hairs; ears well rounded and almost hairless.

*Skull.*—Similar to that of *P. arenarius* (see "Remarks"), but squarer and audital bullae more inflated. Closely resembles *helleri* of the Pacific Coast about San Quintin, Lower California, except that it is larger, has slightly broader nasals and slightly flatter frontals, especially between the lachrymal bones.

*Measurements.*—*Type*: Total length, 170; tail, 95; hind foot, 22; ear, 5; weight, 15.0 grams. *Skull* (type): Condyllo-basal length, 23.2; width of bullae, 12.2; length of maxillary tooth-row, 3.0; nasals, 8.8; interorbital constriction, 6.0.

*Averages and extremes.*—10 adults, including type: Length, 165.3 (158–182); tail, 89.9 (83–103); hind foot, 21.6 (20–23); ear, 5 (all); weight, 15.1 (10.9–19.8). *Skull*: Condyllo-basal length, 23.7 (23.3–24.8); width of bullae, 12.3 (11.8–12.7); length of maxillary tooth-row, 3.1 (3.0–3.4); nasals, 9.1 (8.4–9.7); interorbital constriction, 6.1 (6.0–6.5).

*Range.*—As far as known, the sandy area bordering San Felipe Bay, Lower California, Mexico. However, further work in Lower California, especially the east-central parts, may add considerably to the range given.

*Remarks.*—For the present study, examples of *Perognathus arenarius* Merriam from the type locality (San Jorge, near Comondou, Lower California) have not been available. However, specimens of *Perognathus* in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History from the vicinity of Scammon's Lagoon on the Pacific side of Lower California correspond closely to Merriam's published description of *P. arenarius*,<sup>1</sup> and it is safe to say that they are either the same animals or very nearly related. While they unquestionably possess *penicillatus* characteristics, the San Felipe collections demand that they be separated from *penicillatus*, and in my estimation, *Perognathus helleri*, *P. penicillatus albulus* and *P. penicillatus ammophilus* should also be transferred to the *arenarius* group. The *arenarius* forms from the Lower California mainland would then be as follows:

*Perognathus arenarius arenarius* Merriam.

*Perognathus arenarius ammophilus* Osgood.

*Perognathus arenarius albulus* Nelson and Goldman.

*Perognathus arenarius helleri* Elliot.

*Perognathus arenarius albescens* Huey.

<sup>1</sup> Merriam, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 2, vol. 4, p. 461. Sept. 27, 1894. (With cut of skull.)

An important character possessed in common by all specimens in the above list that I have seen, but not by the true *penicillatus* specimens that I have examined, is the noticeable lateral line separating the dark upperparts from the light underparts. It is the most distinct in *P. a. helleri*, which is the darkest race of this group.

*Specimens examined*.—All from Lower California: *P. a. arenarius* (see "Remarks") mainland, south side of Scammon's Lagoon, 8; Santa Rosalia Bay (about 50 miles north of Scammon's Lagoon), 8. *P. a. albutus*, Magdalena Island, 2. *P. a. helleri*, San Quintin and vicinity, 36. *P. a. albescens*, San Felipe, 33.